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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The State Needs an Elective Attorney-General.

That the Attorney-General of the State should remain an elective officer, independent of the Governor, is counselled by experience and good sense.

This State and all its people profited greatly during the later period of the Grover domination through the presence in the law department of JOHN CUNNEEN, an official in no political manner affiliated with the executive.

In 1912 the State Government might easily have been reduced to chaos had the Attorney-General been an appointee of the Governor, removable at pleasure of the individual who at that time sat in the executive chamber and attempted to defy the Constitution of the State.

The Democrats in conference have done well to except the Attorney-General from the list of those who are to be reduced to subordination in order that the "short" ballot may be achieved.

Floral Games.

General FLORA DRUMMOND and her petticoat phalanx need not be blamed for breaking their promise not to make war while most of the rest of Europe was at it. What are pledges made in a man ruled country to the perfidious Tyrant Man? There can be no truce in that holy war which these British Beltonas are bound to wage to the last latpin. The Home Secretary indeed! These sweet flowers of Flora are the proper guardians of the Home. That's why they're never in it.

It is distressing to read that a vicious and brutish populace is angry with this band of placket heroines. Never were they more logical, wise, patriotic and useful than now. Should a paltry conflict for national existence, a conflict directed and fought by men, with their wonted selfishness, distract the militant mind from the Cause?

And what if fulminant Flora and she who won immortality as the slasher of the Rokeby "Venus" and other citizenesses of great name are cooling their heels but not their heads in the clink? Their blessed work is safe in other if alas! masculine hands. The destruction of the National Gallery or Westminster Abbey invites the humane prowess of the Zeppelin Siegfrieds.

A Real Consolidation or Merely New Jobs?

Half a dozen State and city departments and bureaus now share authority over building operations in New York city. From their activities owners, contractors and lessees are never free. Their authorities overlap and clash, and their coincidences afford frequent opportunities to evade responsibilities and escape blame. Such a condition of confusion needs no commentary; its open self-condemnation is complete.

As a remedy, the Wagner factory investigating commission has proposed the consolidation of all existing agencies having jurisdiction over the construction and alteration of buildings in this city. The new department would be known as the Department of Buildings, and in it would be reposed the functions now exercised by the five borough Bureaus of Buildings, the Tenement House Department, the Bureau of Fire Prevention, now in the Fire Department, and the Bureau of Boiler Inspection, now in the Police Department. There would also be conferred on the new department certain functions of the State Department of Labor relating to factory and mercantile establishments, of the city Health Department affecting bake shops and other food product manufacturers, and of the city Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, which now inspects electrical installations.

For years there has been constant and justified complaint from builders and tenants who have been delayed and harassed in their businesses because of conflicting jurisdictions, by which they have been subjected to unnecessary delays and expense. From their point of view the establishment of one authority is highly to be desired. All of these agencies are designed to protect the lives and property of the public, and there is no reason to believe that greater efficiency

would not result from consolidation of the inspection forces, with a considerable reduction of friction. These advantages of the plan are plain. Its good effects depend on honest administration. If that is lacking neither this scheme nor any other will work well.

How would it affect the taxpayer? He would benefit in pocket directly and indirectly if the consolidation were an actual transfer of existing bureaus to one organization, with consequent reduction in administrative cost and working forces. But if the adoption of the suggestion meant only the creation of another expensive department to be equipped with its commissioner and deputies, clerks, inspectors, "experts" and a whole crew of employees, the taxpayer would find himself worse off than before. On this detail the proponents of the project should give specific figures before they ask the public to indorse without reserve a proposal that on its face has much to commend it to approval.

The Democratic State Campaign.

Whether the primaries designate Governor GLENN or another as the candidate of the Empire State Democracy, the denatured convention at Saratoga has done much to expedite that candidate's course toward victory at the polls in November.

The conference has given the candidate a platform of sound Democracy and plain common sense. It has discouraged further attacks on business, big and little, in the name of regulation. It has called for "the least interference by the Government with industry and business consistent with the demands of the times."

And with conditions what they are, and prospects what they can be made to be, we violate no confidence when we positively announce that the demands of the times for further interference by the Government with industry and business are mighty moderate and unexacting!

The Same Prophetic Neutral.

That tranquil neutral Mr. HERMAN RIMON continues to pour his soothing wisdom on the wounds of war. Here is the peroration of his daily English homily in the *Staats-Zeitung*:

"I plead with the American people to open their eyes to the danger which confronts them. The day cannot be long postponed when the Island Empire of the East will call upon the Island Kingdom of the West, and together they will strike at our own land, even as they are now striking at Germany and Austria. When that day comes we shall turn back to the month of August in the year 1914, and read the first chapter of the catastrophe."

We have not present access to the hived sapience of the *Staats-Zeitung*, but we have the distinct remembrance that this esteemed contemporary was pleading with the American people in 1898 to open their eyes to the danger of attacking an ancient and formidable military Power like Spain.

An Outcropping of Delusion.

When so stupendous an emergency is thrust on civilization as that which has been the inevitable consequence of the European war, resort must be had to expedients to maintain as well as possible the economic organization by which the masses of mankind are supported. The commercial and industrial fabric of society has been woven in times of peace, and war makes huge rents which have to be repaired in some extemporized fashion.

At the same time the world has had long experience in coping with these emergencies and it has learned the part of wisdom, which is that no more emergency measures should be adopted than are absolutely necessary and informed judgment can approve. There is always danger that rash efforts may be made to avert trouble which only court disaster, and the great risk which attaches to improvised facilities for doing business and keeping values liquid is that they tend to become permanent. If this tendency is not controlled the consequences are apt to be destructive. The way of safety is to limit temporary methods and processes of facilitating business to those which have some warrant in past experience and can be retained to permanent advantage if they work well.

Emergency steps of different kinds have been taken in this country in the last week or so which have helped to lessen the shock of the European war on banking and business positions. Everything which has been done has commended itself from the standpoint of intelligence and experience, and there is no doubt that it has served to place the country financially in shape to endure the subsequent strain of the war.

As was to be expected, however, all the ingenuity in the land has begun to exert itself restlessly in the direction of devising expedients which have nothing to commend them. Representative HENRY of Texas has taken advantage of the disturbed situation and the necessity of resorting to indispensable emergency measures and has resurrected his bill in Congress for unlimited issues of what was called "corn tassel money" during last year's deliberations on the Federal reserve bill. He wants the Government to emit paper in boundless volume on the products of the field and farm, the idea being of course the old Populist notion of the nature of money, something which the Government prints and calls a dollar.

There is not much to choose between the delusion to which Representative HENRY wants the country to subscribe and the movement that has suddenly sprung up in the South to have the cotton crop valorized. Southern cotton planters are bombarding Washington with demands that the Government lend up to ten, eleven or twelve cents a pound on cotton so as to prevent the fall in price threatened by the war's

curtailment of Europe's large consumption of the staple.

Apart from the inherent financial viciousness of the project, there is no more reason why the Government should be called upon to hold up the price of cotton than that it should be called upon to sustain the price level of anything. Invoking Government aid for the planter is not the right way to deal with the situation. The banks will be able to relieve his distress by loans to any extent justified by trade prospects.

Besides, there is no resemblance between expedients employed to provide for the sustained movement of business and those suggested merely for a maintenance of prices.

An Associated Press "Franchise."

In a statement signed by Mr. MELVILLE E. STONE purporting to correct misstatements in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* which criticized the organization and methods of the Associated Press, there occurs this passage:

"The assertion that a franchise to a newspaper in New York or Chicago is worth from \$50,000 to \$200,000 will amuse thousands of people who know that five morning Associated Press newspapers of Chicago, the *Chronicle*, the *Record*, the *Times*, the *Free Press* and the *Inter Ocean*, have ceased publication in the somewhat recent past and their owners have not received a penny for their so-called franchise. The Boston *Traveler* and *Evening Journal* were absorbed and their memberships thrown away. The *Christian Science Monitor* voluntarily gave up its membership and took another service which it preferred. The Hartford *Post*, Bridgeport *Post*, New Haven *Union* and Schenectady *Union* did the same. Cases where Associated Press newspapers have ceased publication have not been infrequent. Witness the Worcester *Spy*, St. Paul *Globe*, Minneapolis *Times*, Denver *Republican*, San Francisco *Call*, New Orleans *Picayune*, Indianapolis *Sentinel* and Philadelphia *Times*, as well as many others."

Mr. STONE's memory is playing him odd tricks, or else he is ignorant of a clever little transaction of the financially clever little Mr. ANDREW S. OCHS in Philadelphia some years ago.

OCHS bought the Philadelphia *Times* but found it a losing venture. He then secured control of the *Public Ledger* of Philadelphia and desired to merge the *Times* into it. Both papers had Associated Press franchises, but OCHS did not propose to abandon one without compensation. A meeting of the publishers of the other morning papers in Philadelphia was held. OCHS represented that a rich Pittsburgh man wanted to buy the *Times*, but agreed for a consideration not to sell it; in other words, to put its Associated Press franchise out of competition. Four publishers gave him \$50,000 each, and the *Times* franchise is now owned by the Philadelphia papers and remains inoperative.

By the advice, not always followed, of his lawyer, President Wilson, the President of the United States, Mr. WOODROW WILSON, yesterday, in his first vacation this summer, yet he consents to it for only five days or so. His unsparing devotion to his duties is too familiar to be praised. It is taken as an essential quality of the man. But after so long a course of it, after so many anxieties and a great grief, and with a host of new perplexities thick around him, a little tenderness to his constitution, a truce of his labors, is as necessary as deserved.

And those who battled so valiantly at Armageddon are terrorized by the same old bug!

Seven hundred words in Moose platform—headline.

The soul of wit, as platforms go in piping times, but at least 500 too many words for a battle summer and fall.

Telegrams from Born say that the German Government has issued circulars calling on the people to economize their supplies of petroleum, gasoline and eggs.

—Paris despatch.

The Americans can get along without hen luxuries, but gasoline is their prime necessity.

The ironical label "starch" on certain bullets shipped to Antwerp recalls other drab drabs of real or false courage. In austere Puritan houses of a generation or more ago the backgammon board was often on the library shelves as "The Works of Flavius Josephus"; and in Maine and doubtless other demesnes of the Drys a black bottle of suspicious appearance and with a host of new perplexities thick around him, a little tenderness to his constitution, a truce of his labors, is as necessary as deserved.

As an individual he had the right to act as he did if he thought it his Christian duty, which he did not doubt. But as citizens of a State we are bound to a loyal observance of its laws, as expressed in the motto of West Point, "Duty, Honor, Country." When a State is called upon for self-defense, all true citizens must respond in sympathy and loyalty. Otherwise they are not citizens and should not be voters.

To say that Belgium, France and other countries should resist German invasion means an extension of militarism over the world, "the Kaiser" of Europe and the world.

Such theories are worse than foolish and dangerous. They are delusory and traitorous. If we subscribe to them we must apologize for our Revolutionary war, that "most righteous cause in which mankind has never been so united."

An AMERICAN WOMAN.

New York, August 27.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: I am writing to you to tell you that I am a woman and I am a patriot. I am a woman and I am a patriot. I am a woman and I am a patriot.

expertise, and it may be that there will after a while be a play which will have merit as something else than a temporary success.

OUR EXPORT PROBLEM.

Financial Disarrangement, Not Lack of Ships, Hampers It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Considerable space has been devoted to articles on the proposal of the Government to purchase ships to carry exports from this country abroad owing to the war in Europe and the consequent shortage of shipping. There is at the present time a lack of tonnage caused by the withdrawal of ships of warring nations.

The difficulty with the American export business at the present time, however, is not one of tonnage but one of finance, the question being the upsetting of credits and exchange. There appears to be plenty of tonnage available and inquiry at the various consular offices will develop the fact that there is a fair number of sailings arranged for the last week in August to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Havre, Dunkirk, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Hull, Copenhagen and other ports.

There are also sailings to Greek, Spanish and Italian ports as well as sailings to the Levant. To South America there are some August sailings, and to all the ports mentioned there are numerous sailings. The difficulty is not one of tonnage but one of finance, the question being the upsetting of credits and exchange.

There has been considerable discussion of the export of crops, but here again the financial aspect appears to be the most important one, and with this difficulty overcome I believe it will be found that a large amount of regular line tonnage now available will be engaged. It might also be worth mentioning in passing that there is a great deal more grain in England at the present time than appears to be generally known.

It is a well known fact that it costs more to operate ships under American registers than under foreign, and with the tonnage already in the trade to the various ports and countries mentioned, the American shipowner would find great difficulty in making his steamers pay. It is also quite likely that private capital will interest itself in the purchase of such foreign ships, particularly German, as are at present out of commission while there is talk of the Government purchasing them, as reports now indicate that owners are asking higher prices for tonnage on account of the possibility of the Government competing with private capital.

G. M. MARSEY.

New York, August 26.

AMERICAN MUSIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Louis M. Elshausen, "The American Beethoven," as he calls himself, seems to have confidence in himself as a composer of originality and believes that if a fair trial were given him he could compose just as great an opera as any foreign composer. He is anxious to have his work recognized and believes that if a fair trial were given him he could compose just as great an opera as any foreign composer.

I would ask "The American Beethoven" why it is that many foreign composers are not recognized and their compositions are never played. Why, for instance, Chopin, Schubert, Weber, Schumann, &c., have been recognized as great masters not because they were foreigners but merely because they were great geniuses. They created wonderful music, and their work is recognized sooner or later, notwithstanding race or nation, likewise, Gustav Mahler, the late great musical conductor, had difficulties at first in getting a position, but he was honored later by many prominent people and was loved by masses of music lovers. Why? He, with his wonderful musical talent, had inspired them more than any other conductor.

If America had geniuses or great talents they would be recognized just as much as the French, the Italian, the Russian, &c. I am certain if any original musical composition of value was introduced to men like Dr. Muck of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Stranisky of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Hertz or Toscanini of the Metropolitan Opera Company, they would be glad to perform it before the public.

By no means is this a possibility of having a "concert" of the kind which has been recently given, in which a violin or piano recitals this concert season if the foreigners should be kept back by war.

SAMUEL DILON.

New York, August 26.

CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS.

A Distinction of Action and Duty Forgotten.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A plea for the observance of the Hague treaties and a protest against violation of those treaties would be a practical, timely and pertinent reason for forbidding the sale of munitions of war, which it lacks.

Had the Hague conventions been observed there would have been no invasion of Belgium.

To cry "peace, peace," when there is no peace satisfies no reasoning being. Some of the advocates of "peace at any price" deny the right of self-defense. The chairmen of the peace societies, Mr. William Lloyd Garrison, Mr. Henry Wood, Mr. Charles Hertz, or Mr. Josephine of the Metropolitan Opera Company, they would be glad to perform it before the public.

By no means is this a possibility of having a "concert" of the kind which has been recently given, in which a violin or piano recitals this concert season if the foreigners should be kept back by war.

SAMUEL DILON.

New York, August 26.

THE BATTLE YEAR.

Italy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The position of Italy seems to be rather remarkable. She is of course greatly to be admired for the firmness with which she has remained neutral, but day by day her present and future position becomes more and more difficult to maintain. The time is very close at hand when she must reach one conclusion or the other, either to ally herself with Germany and Austria or to join with the allies and throw her whole forces into the war.

If she remains neutral and Germany should be victorious her ultimate fate will probably be a very sad one. If she joins the allies now, when they are most in need of her services, it would very materially aid them in conquering Germany, and in accomplishing this fact she would have practically all of Europe behind her save Germany and Austria.

L. C. T.

New York, August 27.

What the Stars and Stripes Means.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Out of all this hideous European inferno of war, lust, pomp and butchery there comes a great and glowing thought for every man who lives under the Stars and Stripes. It is this:

Ours is a nation of peace, so conceived and so designed in the overhead scheme of things that it is our birthright, our capital, our pride, our best beloved child. By peace alone can we work out our Providential destiny.

Born in Ireland and landing at Castle Garden thirty years ago, I now for the first time have got a correct perspective of what the Stars and Stripes means to me and should mean to every man who earns his living under this magnificent flag.

Never was the Statue of Liberty so personally close and so dearly loved or understood by me as yesterday, when I saw it in the midday sun within easy gunshot of me, its head bowed in prayer, as I saw her weatherbeaten coat of peace, green with her years of welcoming the nations of the earth, she might well be saying to herself in these troublous times: "Peace and a blessing to all who enter here!"

D. A. REINY.

THEY, AUGUST 27.

The Reported Utterances of Assistant Secretary Breckinridge.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: This morning the newspapers published a communication given out by the German Embassy at Washington purporting to be a despatch received by it from the Foreign Office at Berlin. That communication, as reproduced in THE SUN contains the following:

The German Foreign Office advised the Embassy in another wireless despatch that Assistant Secretary Breckinridge of the United States Government, who had been in Berlin with relief funds, praised the attitude of the German people toward Americans and declared it a duty to inform Americans of the victories of the German armies and of the excellent spirit of the German nation.

Thus an appointee of the President sent abroad on an official mission as representative of the American Government undertakes to act as press agent for Germany.

An Assistant Secretary of War of the United States who considers it "a duty to inform Americans of the victories of the German armies and of the excellent spirit of the German nation" ought to have had opportunity to discharge that duty solely in the press agent capacity in which he performs it and at the expense of the Government for whose benefit he performs it, not at the expense of the American people.

All of which is respectfully submitted through the medium of THE SUN for timely attention to the honorable author of the declaration of mental neutrality to the people of the American people, from whom the German press agent in question derives his commission as a paid officer of the American Government.

Ought not the President, in conformity with the spirit of the American people, to investigate immediately the authenticity of the Breckinridge statement, and upon its being proved genuine ought he not to take with respect to the aforesaid Assistant Secretary of War action "in conformity with the true spirit of neutrality?"

M. L.

New York, August 27.

Difficulties of a German Patriot.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have been reading with interest and sympathy the article in your issue of August 26, "The German Patriot," and I am inclined to doubt it, for if he were he would probably take our President's advice and refrain from acts which are apt to stir up passion and a bitter and cause serious trouble. I have been reading his outgivings from day to day with growing alarm.

P. S.

New York, August 26.

"Brute Force" and "Culture."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Let the peace parade ladies not forget that for years many French people have been objecting to militarism, thinking that money so spent should be used rather in bettering schools, hospitals, and the like. It would be a pity if the money were to be used for the sake of a few soldiers who have been seen in the streets of the Krupp factory next door. What are the more highly civilized to do against such brute force as exists under so-called "culture"—a "culture" which is based upon the Japanese, spiritually far above it?

MARGARET CONWAY.

New York, August 27.

American Benefits From European War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: First, a free trade tariff from "Agate to Zinc" is knocked higher than Gilderoy's kite, a kind of Providence having decreed that foreign manufacturers shall be allowed until American manufacturers catch second breath.

URGE COMBINES TO WINFOREIGN TRADE.

Be Amended.

American Business Men Contend Sherman Law Must Be Amended.

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